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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.



(54) Title: NEUTRAL-CATIONIC LIPID FOR NUCLEIC ACID AND DRUG DELIVERY

(57) Abstract: A lipid represented by formula (I), wherein each of R^1 and R^2 is an alkyl or alkenyl chain having between about 8 to about 24 carbon atoms: n=1-20; L is selected from the group consisting of (i) -X-(C=O)-Y-CH₂-, (ii) -X-(C=O)-, and (iii) -X-CH₂-, wherein X and Y are independently selected from oxygen, NH and a direct bond; and Z is a weakly basic moiety that has a pK of less than about 7.4 and greater than about 4.0 is described.

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ational Application No PCT/US 00/27974

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 C07D233/54 A61K47/00 C07C271/28 C07H5/06 A61P43/00 According to International Palent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) CHEM ABS Data C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category * 1.19 WO 97 00241 A (BOEHRINGER MANNHEIM GMBH) Α 3 January 1997 (1997-01-03) claims 1,19 US 5 891 468 A (FRANCIS J. MARTIN ET AL.) Α 6 April 1999 (1999-04-06) column 1 -column 5 1,5,8, US 5 965 434 A (JON A. WOLFF ET AL.) 10,11, P,X 12 October 1999 (1999-10-12) 19,23 * complete document * 1,19 WO 00 30444 A (VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY) P,X 2 June 2000 (2000-06-02) * complete document * Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. *T* later document published after the international filing date or pnortry date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the Special categories of cited documents: *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone *E* earlier document but published on or after the international tiling date "Y" document of particular relevance: the ctaimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. 'L' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is called to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) O' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed *&* document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 06/08/2001 30 July 2001 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA ng aduress of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tet. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Van Bijlen, H

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tinuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT ry * Citation of document, with indication where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No.					
gory * Ctation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passage	Relevant to claim N				
WO 01 26625 A (ALZA CORPORATION) 19 April 2001 (2001-04-19) claims	1-33				

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 1-33 (all partially)

Present claims 1, 19 and 30 (and their dependent claims) relate to a composition, respectively a general formula and a method for delivering and they all relate to a formula containing a substituent Z which is not defined in structural terms but is defined as "a weakly basic moiety that has a pK of less than about 7.4 and greater than about 4.0". The use of such a parameter in the present context is considered to lead to a lack of clarity within the meaning of Article 6 PCT. It is impossible to compare the parameter the applicant has chosen to employ with what is set out in the prior art. The lack of clarity is such as to render a meaningful complete search impossible.

Consequently the search and the search report can only be considered complete for compounds of the general formula of claim 19 wherein Z is a substituent as in the figures 3A-3C of the present application.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

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Information on patent family members

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